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years, fled back to the paths of orthodoxy and rose to high preferment. His case is not typical, but it is significant. The idea of Church authority must at this period have lain on men 'with a weight heavy as frost and deep almost as life.' In spite of highly trained logical acumen, the mediaeval mind was so oddly inconsistent that a desire to be included in the fold of the Church might coincide with utter contempt for her ministers and disbelief in her dogmas. But as time went on the Lollards became more accustomed to the position of heretics, more ready to stake their souls on the hazard, and to sacrifice their bodies in the cause.

In October 1389 Archbishop Courtenay visited the diocese of Lincoln. He came down to Leicester, the hot-bed of heresy, and lodged in the Abbey, where there were those eager to inform him as to the names of the principal offenders. He wisely desisted from molesting Sir Thomas Latimer, John Trussel and the other Lollard gentlemen, but he summoned before him the hot-gospellers of meaner station. Only one out of the nine persons indicated was a priest. Most of the others appear, from their names—Smith, Scryvener, Tailor, G-oldsmith—to have been tradesmen of the town. The Primate made an impressive display of the wrath and majesty of the Church. Appearing in full pontificals, * he fulminated a sentence of excommunication with cross erected, candles lit and bells beating.' The town was put under an interdict till the accused were forthcoming. Nevertheless five out of the nine succeeded in lying hid. The other four gave way, recanted, and were reconciled. William Smith, who had used the image of St. Catharine as firewood, was forced to do penance with a crucifix: hi one hand and an image of the insulted Saint in the other, and to surrender the books which he had written in the mother-tongue on the New Testament and the Fathers. Although a tradesman by birth and no Oxford scholar, Smith had taught himself to read and write, and had even advanced to the study of theology. He is a most interesting person, and it is a pity that he had not the crowning courage to endure martyrdom.

The submission of Smith and his friends was a blow to their prestige. According to the clergy of Leicester, the